



July 29, 2016

Mr. Ron Curry  
Administrator, EPA Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Administrator Curry,

We understand that the Environmental Protection Agency National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) is currently reviewing options for long-term solutions to address the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. (This letter corrects a clerical error in our July 25, 2016, letter.)

As Members of Congress representing this immediate site and the surrounding communities, we have met with the leaders of affected communities and a number of organizations that have an interest in the long-term solutions to this Superfund site. As you know, this site is located just north of where the San Jacinto River flows into Trinity Bay and Galveston Bay.

The attorney representing Harris County - the municipality with jurisdiction in the unincorporated area - has long recommended full remediation of the dioxin contamination from the San Jacinto River site as the only way to permanently and effectively address the danger and potential exposure of dioxins from this site to human health and the environment.

Recently (July 14, 2016) the City of Baytown, located to the east and south of the waste pits site, passed a resolution requesting that the EPA recommend full remediation of the San Jacinto Waste Pit Superfund Site. A copy of this resolution is enclosed.

As the EPA conducts a final review of this issue and prepares to make their recommendation in the coming weeks, I ask that you give full consideration to the requests of these communities, their elected officials, and the constituents that they represent.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Brian Babin, written in a cursive style.

Brian Babin, D.D.S. (TX-36)  
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Randy Weber, written in a cursive style.

Randy Weber (TX-14)  
Member of Congress

Enclosure

Cc: Gary Miller, USEPA  
Administrator Gina McCarthy, USEPA  
Amy Legare, Chair NRRB



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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

RESOLUTION NO. 2430

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF BAYTOWN, TEXAS, AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAYTOWN, TEXAS, ENCOURAGING THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ASSIGN FOREMOST ATTENTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SUPPORTING THE FULL REMEDIATION OF THE SAN JACINTO WASTE PIT SUPERFUND SITE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

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WHEREAS, over the years, the City of Baytown has taken progressive steps in preserving and protecting and improving the water quality of the public waters within and adjacent to the corporate limits of the City; and

WHEREAS, one such step was the enactment of the City's watershed protection ordinance in 2007, which regulations protect the health, safety and general welfare of city residents; protect public water resources and to improve water quality; cause the use of management practices by the city and its citizens that will reduce the adverse effects of polluted runoff discharges into waters of the State; and protect current or potential public water supplies; and

WHEREAS, another step includes the buy-out and conversion of the property within the Brownwood Subdivision, which is contiguous to the San Jacinto River where it meets the Houston Ship Channel, to the Baytown Nature Center, a nature preserve, wherein a vast number of the 500 acres were returned to a mix of tidal wetlands, fresh and brackish water pools and forested islands; and

WHEREAS, the Baytown Nature Center is used to educate and promote ecology, wildlife and healthy habitats and is home to over 300 species of birds and 40,000 annual visitors, including fishermen who have had to contend with consumption advisories issued by the Texas Parks and Wildlife based upon the Texas Department of State Health's findings of PCBs in our local waterways for almost thirty (30) years; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief that the City's efforts in preserving, protecting and improving water quality of the public waters within and adjacent to the corporate limits of the City will be rendered futile unless all of the toxic waste in the San Jacinto Waste Pits is removed; and

WHEREAS, other means implemented in the past in attempts to preserve the public health, including the protective cap that was designed to keep tons of dioxin waste out of the San Jacinto River at the super fund site, have failed and have created an ongoing danger to the public, ecology and wildlife in the area; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency apply a permanent resolution to the toxic waste dump in San Jacinto River, located in the center of one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States and in an area which is prone to hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding and tidal surges; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and local governments cannot allow the toxic waste to remain in the San Jacinto Waste Pits and thereby allow the release of dioxin for centuries;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Baytown Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the City Council of the City of Baytown to encourage the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to completely surround the San Jacinto Waste Pits with a wall, to pump the water out of the contained site, to dig the waste out, and to haul it to a safe location; and

WHEREAS, such action is the only action that will be acceptable to ensure that the polluting agent releasing dioxins does not continue for years to come; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF BAYTOWN, TEXAS, AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAYTOWN, TEXAS:

Section 1: That the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Baytown, Texas, and the City Council of the City of Baytown respectfully request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assign foremost attention to public health and support and implement the full remediation of the San Jacinto Waste Pit Superfund Site.

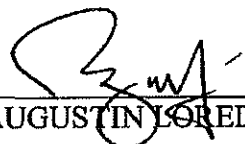
Section 2: That the City Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Texas.

Section 3: This resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage by both the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Baytown, Texas, and the City Council of the City of Baytown, Texas.

INTRODUCED, READ and PASSED, by the affirmative vote of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Baytown, Texas, this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.

  
WAYNE GRAY, Chairman


HOWARD HUNT, Board Member

  
AUGUSTIN LOREDÓ, III, Board Member

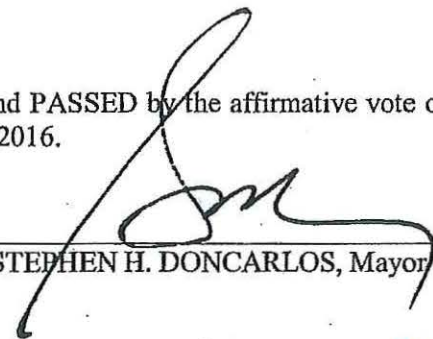
  
MICHELLE BITTERLY, Board Member

KEVIN JONES, Board Member


  
BILLY BARNETT, Board Member

  
CARMEN TORRES, Board Member

INTRODUCED, READ and PASSED by the affirmative vote of the City Council of the City of Baytown, this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.

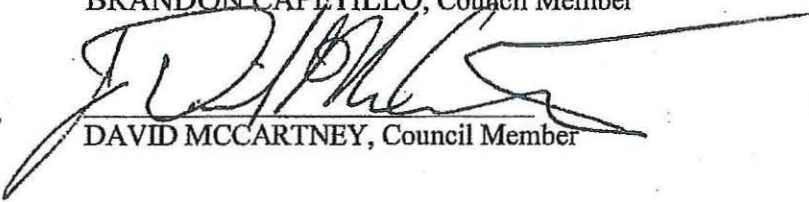
  
STEPHEN H. DONCARLOS, Mayor

  
MERCEDES RENTERIA III, Council Member

  
CHRIS PRESLEY, Council Member

BRANDON CAPETILLO, Council Member

TERRY SAIN, Council Member

  
DAVID MCCARTNEY, Council Member


  
ROBERT HOSKINS, Council Member

ATTEST:

  
LETICIA BRYSCH, City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
IGNACIO RAMIREZ, SR., City Attorney

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4336

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*Barack Obama*  
M.C.



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